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Garden ground at Orchard Cottage, Lanton, Scottish Borders

Report no. 2008

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**Garden ground at Orchard Cottage, Lanton,
Scottish Borders**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 2008

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) between 24th and 25th January 2012 in land immediately to the northwest of Orchard Cottage, Lanton (Figure 1, NGR: NT 62091 21839). The work was commissioned by Douglas Page.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 20th January 2012 was produced by CFA on behalf of Douglas Page. The WSI was designed to fulfil the requirements of the Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Service (SBCAS).

1.2 Background

Planning permission has been granted for the construction of a new house in garden land adjacent to Orchard Cottage. A condition for archaeological evaluation was secured against the construction of the house, but following discussion with SBCAS, it was agreed that a watching brief would suffice as mitigation during ground breaking works.

Ordnance Survey maps (1863, 1899, 1923) show that the proposed development area has been enclosed garden ground from at least the mid-19th century onwards.

A previous evaluation (Suddaby, 2002), conducted in advance of planning permission being granted for the construction of another proposed new house in 2002, was undertaken to the north of the development area along the line of a proposed access road. Features identified included an area of paving, a bank, and wall footings that are likely to be associated with a 16th century tower house or bastle, the recorded location of which lay to the southeast of the evaluation area. Several amorphous shallow patches of black, charcoal-rich soil, possibly representing an early phase of activity/occupation, were also identified.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the programme of archaeological works were:

- To conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (watching brief) during all ground breaking works associated with the construction of the house, and report on its findings.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Fieldwork. Recording of all elements followed established CFA methods, as detailed in the approved WSI.

2.3 Archaeological Watching Brief

The removal of soil deposits was carried out using a JCB excavator, equipped with smooth-bladed ditching bucket. This programme of works was carried out under constant archaeological supervision.

All excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, by photography and by completing standard CFA record forms.

The ground breaking works consisted of the removal of topsoil deposits over an area measuring approximately 25m by 30m and the excavation of foundation trenches along the footprint of the proposed house for the house walls. The trenches measured 0.8m wide by 0.5-0.8m deep.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

Numbers in bold in the following text refer to contexts, a full list of which is contained in Appendix 1.

Topsoil (**001**) consisted of a mid-dark grey-brown silt with occasional 19th/20th century pottery and modern rubbish such as plastic etc in places. Topsoil was between 0.2-0.43m deep and overlay a subsoil deposit (**002**, Fig. 2. This was deepest down slope at the south-eastern side of the site. The subsoil deposit (**002**) consisted of a mid brownish orange to orange brown silt which contained occasional charcoal/coal flecks and was heavily bioturbated through both animal and plant action. Subsoil (**002**) was between 0.1-0.3m deep and overlay natural subsoil (**009**), a light to mid peachy pink and orange fine silty sand and gravel.

3.2 Linear feature and ‘garden edging’

In the south-eastern corner of the site, two features (Fig.1-1b), a shallow linear ditch (**004**, Fig. 3) and a disturbed line of stones (**003**, Fig. 4) were identified and excavated. Both were cut into the subsoil deposit (**002**).

The linear feature (**004**) measured 6.25m by 0.62m by 0.04-0.15m deep and was orientated NE-SW. The feature had slightly square ends and gently sloping sides with an uneven base, and was filled with a topsoil-like deposit (**005**) of mid brownish grey slightly sandy silt with coal inclusions and occasional 19th/20th century pottery finds. A small square pit/posthole (**006**) measuring 0.3m by 0.3m by 0.08m deep was located at the north-eastern terminal of (**004**). This had vertical sides and a sloping base and was filled with (**007**), a mid grey-brown sandy silt.

Approximately 4m to the southeast of (**004**) lay a linear alignment of disturbed stones (**003**). The alignment was formed from a single line of seven roughly quarried angular sandstone stones aligned NE-SW, parallel to (**004**), and were set edge-on, rather than laid flat. The stones measured between 0.1-0.35m long and were set within (**010**), a topsoil-like deposit of mid brownish grey slightly sandy silt covering an area of

approximately 4m by 1.75m. A slot excavated across the stones (003) and through the deposit (010) revealed it to infill a possible shallow cut (008) running along the south-eastern side of the stones, to a maximum depth of 0.15m.

The features do not overlay with the enclosure shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map (1863) (Fig. 1b), but they are enclosed within it and run parallel with the eastern/western ends of the enclosure, suggesting a similar alignment. It is likely that the linear feature (004), the small pit/posthole (006) and the line of stones (003) are related, and probably represent the remains of garden features within the larger enclosure depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map and subsequent editions.

4. CONCLUSION

A watching brief was carried out during ground works for the construction of a new house in garden ground immediately to the north-west of Orchard Cottage, Lanton, Scottish Borders (NGR NT 62091 21839).

There were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified during the watching brief, but the remains of a shallow linear feature (004), a small square pit/posthole (006) and a single line of disturbed edge set stones (003) were identified in the south-eastern corner of the development area and probably represent the remains of garden features associated with an enclosure depicted on 19th century OS maps.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS).

A summary statement of the results of this watching brief will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 4) and an online OASIS form will be completed.

5. REFERENCES

Suddaby, I. 2002, Orchard Wells, Lanton, Jedburgh, Borders Region. Archaeological Evaluation Date Structure Report. CFA Report No. 705

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map (1863) *Roxburghshire Sheet XX*, six inches to one mile

Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition map (1899) *Roxburghshire Sheet XX NE*, six inches to one mile

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map (1923) *Roxburghshire Sheet n XIII*, six inches to one mile

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context No.	Description
001	Topsoil: mid-dark grey brown silt with >2% small angular inclusions and coal chunks. Contains modern rubbish inclusions and 19 th /20 th century pottery/finds. 0.2m-0.43m deep.
002	Subsoil: mid brownish orange to orange brown silt, heavily bioturbated, with <2% charcoal/coal flecks. 0.1m-0.3m deep.
003	Edging Stones – Fill of [008]: line of 7 rough cut angular sandstone stones, edge set, but lying at different angles, aligned NE-SW, measuring 2.3m long by c. 0.3m wide. Set within soil deposit (010) and possible slight cut [008]. Probable remains of garden edging.
004	Cut of linear feature: aligned NE-SW, gently sloping sides with irregular base, measuring 6.25m by 0.6m by 0.04m-0.15m deep. Linear feature probably associated with garden plot and stones (003).
005	Fill of [004]: mid-brownish grey sandy silt with 2% coal chunks and small angular inclusions. Similar to (001).
006	Cut of small square pit/posthole: vertical sides and sloping base, measuring 0.3m by 0.3m. Lies at NE terminal end of [004].
007	Fill of [006]: mid-grey brown sandy silt with <2% small sub-angular inclusions
008	Cut for edging stones (003): linear, with sharp, steeply sloping edge on SW side of stones (003), peters out to NW. Measures c.2.3m by c.1m by 0.15m deep.
009	Natural subsoil: light to medium peachy to reddish orange fine sand, silt and occasional gravels.
010	Fill of [008]: mid-grey brown sandy silt with <2% small sub-angular inclusions. 0.15m deep.

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Number	Description	From	Conditions
1-4	General pre-ex shots of development area	SE-SW	O/C
5	Pre-ex shots of 'garden edging' stones (003)	NE	O/C
6	General shot of 'garden edging' stones (003)	SW	O/C
7	General shot of area post topsoil strip with linear [004] in foreground	S	O/C
8-9	Close-up of northern section of (003)	SE	O/C
10-11	Shot of NE facing section of trench at SE corner of area	NE	O/C
12	Elevation shot of section through remaining section of dry-stone wall bordering road	NW	O/C
13	Elevation shot of remaining section of dry-stone wall bordering road	SW	O/C
14-15	SE facing section of [004] and [006]	SE	O/C
16	Post-ex shot of Slot 1 through [004]	NE	O/C
17	NE facing section of Slot 1 [004]	NE	O/C
18	Post-ex shot of slot through (003) and deposit (010)	NW	O/C
19	NE facing section of slot through (003) and deposit (010)	NE	O/C
20	SW facing section of slot through (003) and deposit (010)	SW	O/C
21	General shot of plough scores at northern corner of area	SE	O/C
22	NW facing section of Slot 3 [004]	NW	O/C
23	Post-ex shot of Slot 3 [004]	SE	O/C
24	SE facing section of Slot 3 [004]	SE	O/C
25	Post-ex shot of Slot 2 [004]	SW	O/C
26	NE facing section of Slot 2 [004]	NE	O/C
27	SW facing section of Slot 2 [004]	SW	O/C
28	Post-ex shot of [004]	SW	O/C

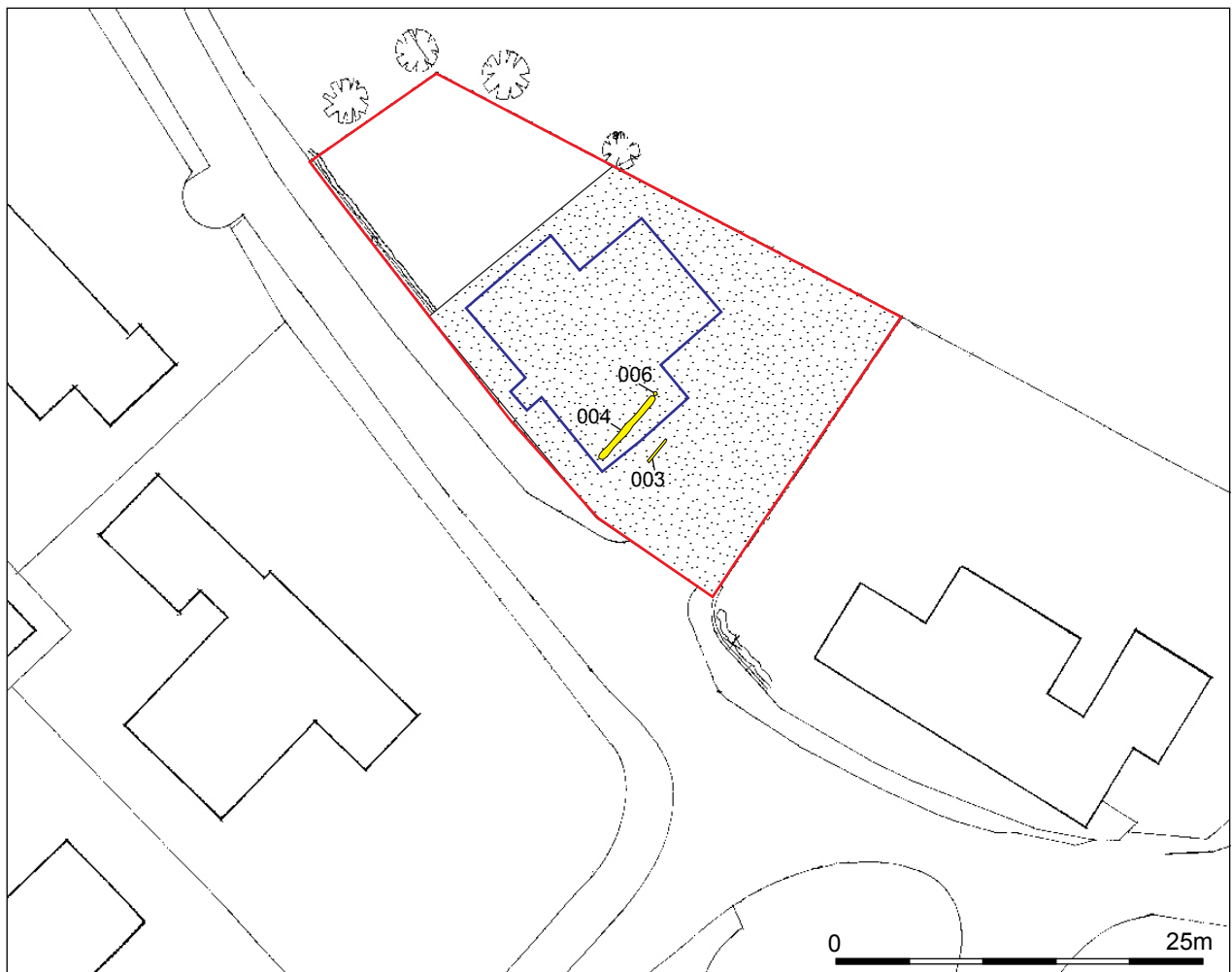
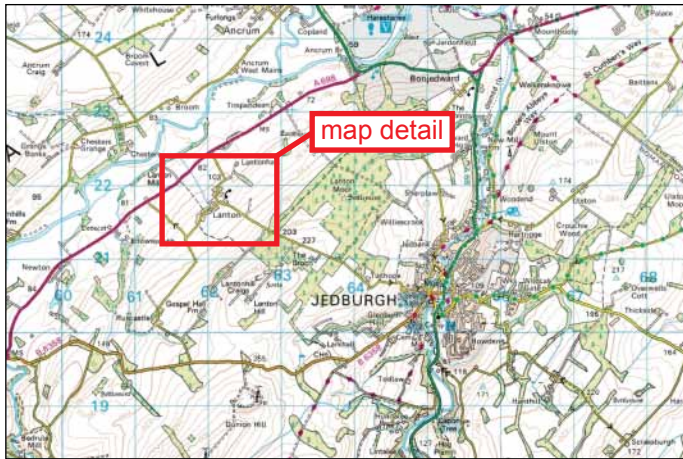
29	General shot of [004] and (003)	WSW	O/C
30-31	NW facing elevation of stones (003), NE-SW	NW	O/C
32	General shot of topsoiled area, northern corner	N	O/C
33	General shot of topsoiled area, western corner	WSW	O/C
34	General shot of foundation trench showing natural subsoil (009)	NW	O/C
35	Shot of foundation trench section (wall trench nearest road)	NE	O/C
36	General shot of foundation trench	SE	O/C
37	General shot of foundation trench section (middle bisection wall trench)	NE	O/C

APPENDIX 3: Drawing Register

Number	Description	Section/Plan	Scale
1	Post-ex plan of [004], [006], (003), (010), [008]	P	1:50
2	NE facing section of slot through (003) and (010)	S	1:10
3	SW facing section of slot through (003) and (010)	S	1:10
4	NW facing elevation of (003)	S	1:10
5	SE facing section [004] and [006] Slot 1	S	1:10
6	NE facing section [004] Slot 1	S	1:10
7	NW facing section [004] Slot 3	S	1:10
8	SW facing section [004] Slot 3	S	1:10
9	NE facing section [004] Slot 2	S	1:10
10	SW facing section [004] Slot 2	S	1:10

APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Borders
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Garden ground at Orchard Cottage, Lanton, Scottish Borders
PROJECT CODE:	LANT
PARISH:	Jedburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Helena Gray
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	-
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	-
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	-
NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)	NT 62091 21839.
START DATE (this season)	24 th January 2012
END DATE (this season)	25 th January 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was carried out during ground works for the construction of a new house in garden ground immediately to the north-west of Orchard Cottage, Lanton, Scottish Borders There were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified during the watching brief.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Douglas Page
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	National Monuments Record of Scotland (archive) Scottish Borders Council Archaeology Service (report)



- Key:
- Development area
 - Proposed building footprint
 - Area stripped for development
 - Features



Fig. No: 1 Revision: A Client: Douglas Page

Title:

Project:
Garden ground at orchard Cottage, Lanton,
Scottish Borders

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Scale: 1:500 @A4

Drawn by: GC Checked: LW Report No: 2008



0  25m

- Key:
- Development area
 - Proposed building footprint
 - Features



Fig. No: **1b** Revision: **A** Client: **Douglas Page**

Title: **Development and features placed over 1st Edition map by Ordnance Survey, 1863**

Project: **Garden ground at orchard Cottage, Lanton, Scottish Borders**



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Drawn by: **GC** Checked: **LW** Report No: **2008**




Fig. 2 General shot of development area following topsoil stripping, from the south-west

Fig. 3 Post-excavation of linear feature (004) and pit/posthole (006) from the south-west



Fig. 4 Pre-excavation shot of 'edging stones' (003) from the north-east

Key:	Fig. No:	2-4	Revision:	A	Client:	Douglas Page	 CFA CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4380 f: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk
	Title:						
Scale:	Project: Garden ground at orchard Cottage, Lanton, Scottish Borders					Drawn by: GC Checked: LW Report No: 2008	